व्यापार समझौतों का उल्लंघन

2045. **चौधरी हर मोहन सिंह यादव:** क्या वाणिज्य मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या विदेश स्थित भारतीय मिशनों को गत तीन वर्षों के दौरान भारत की सरकारी तथा निजी क्षेत्र की कंपनियों के विरुद्ध व्यापार समझौतों का उल्लंघन किए जाने के संबंध में शिकायतें मिली हैं;

(ख) यदि हां, तो तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या है; और

(ग) सरकार ने इस संबंध में क्या कार्यवाही की है?

वाणिज्य मंत्री (श्री रामकृष्ण हेगड़े): (क) से (ग) सूचना एकत्र की जा रही है और सभा पटल पर रख दी जाएगी।

Problems of Rice Exporters

2046. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item which appeared in the Tribune, dated 31st December, 1998, captioned "Problems of rice exporters";

(b) if so, what are the details of the difficulties experienced by rice exporters; and

(c) the remedial steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE): (a) and (b) yes, Sir. The news-item mainly refers to the difficulties faced by exporters in regard to shipments to rice by rail and road to Bangladesh.

(c) Ministry of Railways has issued instructions to prioritise export traffic as under:—

(i) Higher Priority (Green Channel priority) when indents for wagons are supported by certified copy of a Letter of Credit.

(ii) Normal Priority "B" for other cases.

This is likely to ameliorate the problems faced by exporters.

Export of Meat

2047. SHRI K.R. MALKANI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of heads of cattle, buffaloes, sheep and goats which are slaughtered every year for export purposes;

(b) what is the foreign exchange earned by these meat exports;

(c) whether it is a fact that export quality meat has to come from good healthy animals;

(d) whether this will not deplete the cattle wealth of India;

(e) whether it is a fact that slaughter-house machinery is imported duty free; and

(f) whether it is also a fact that these export units pay no Excise duties, no Sales Tax, and no Income Tax?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE): (a) The details of animals slaughtered every year for export purpose are not maintained.

(b) The foreign exchange earned through export of meat during the last three years is as under:

Year	Export (Rs. crores)
1995-96	615.50
1996-97	694.51
1997-98*	792.90

(SOURCE: DGCI&S, Calcutta)
*Provisional.

(c) Yes, Sir,

(d) No, Sir. According to the livestock census of 1987 and 1992, the livestock population has actually increased from 445.28 million in 1987 to 470.14 million in 1992, thereby registering an annual growth rate of 1.1%.

(e) According to the current EXIM Policy, export oriented units, units in

export processing zones, electronic hardware technology park units and software technology units may import, free of duty, the capital goods, raw material, office equipment etc. subject to fulfillment of the provisions specified in Hand Book of Procedures, Vol. 1, 1997—2002. Import of capital goods at concessional rate of Custom Duty, subject to an export obligation to be fulfilled over a period of time, is also allowed under the EXIM Policy. These provisions of the EXIM Policy are applicable to the exporters of all commodities including meat.

(f) The exporters of meat are exempted from Excise Duty and Sales Tax. The Income Tax holiday is applicable to the exporters of all commodities including meat.

Production of Oilseeds

2048. SHRI K.R. MALKANI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that between 1990-91, Oilseeds production went up from 16.61 million tonnes to 24 million tonnes;

(b) why in this favourable situation, imports were allowed to leap-frog from 0.19 million tonnes to 28.08 million tonnes as reported in the Hindustan Times, dated 20th January, 1999;

(c) whether this was an attempt to dump edible oils in India and depress Indian prices to the disadvantage of Oilseeds growers and edible oil industry; and

(d) whether the recent poisoning of mustard oil is also part of this conspiracy to kill our edible oil industry?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE): (a) The production of oilseeds have increased from 18.61 million tonnes in 1990-91 to 24.22 million tonnes (likely) during 1998-99.

(b) the import of vegetable oils fixed (edible) were 5.26 lakh tonnes in 1990-91 and 17.11 lakh tonnes (provisional) during the period April—November, 98. Inspite of an increase in production of oilseeds, the availability of edible oils from indigenous sources is not sufficient to meet the domestic demand. The gap still exists, as demand of edible oils is going up on account of high growth of population and rise in the living standards of the people.

(c) and (d) No, Sir.

Industrial growth

2049. DR. (Ms.) P. SELVIE DAS: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether industrial growth of 6.3 per cent in April, 1998 has slumped to 2 per cent in October, 1998;

(b) if so, what are the reasons for such slump; and

(c) whether Government propose to reach the target estimated for the current financial year, 1998-99?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT): The industrial growth rate during 1998-99 for the period April—December (month-wise) is as follows:

	1998-99
April	4.8
May	3.7
June	4.8
July	3.4
Aug	4.4
Sept	2.8
Oct	0.8
Nov	3.8
Dec	3.2

(b) The slow down in industrial growth can be attributed to both the domestic and external factors.

- Domestic factors include weak deman on account of inadequate investent in infraitructure sectors, like power, ports and transport, and slow down in general investment mainly